

REMARKS

Prior to examination, the claims are amended to place them into better condition for favorable consideration. New claim 26 is added, based upon original claim 12. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application.

On February 2, 2009, Examiner Dirk Bass telephoned Applicants' representative, Richard Gallagher, to require restriction amongst:

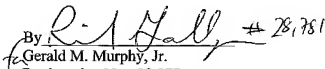
- I. Claims 1-11 and 16-22, originally drawn to fixing agents;
- II. Claims 12-14, 23, and 24, originally drawn to methods for fixing substances on substrates; and
- III. Claims 15 and 25, originally drawn to substrates.

Applicants elect the invention designated as Group II (method for fixing substances on substrates), without traverse. Pursuant to the above amendments, claims 2-14, 23, 24, and 26 read on the elected invention.

Favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions, please contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

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Respectfully submitted,

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